

Appl No.: 09/672519
Amtd. Dated 8/12/2004
Reply to Office Action of July 26, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Rejections

Original claims 1-11 are of record pending in this application.

Applicant is canceling claims 7-11 and respectfully asks that the Examiner accept this amendment after final to place this application in better form for appeal or for allowance.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Keller (the Keller reference).

Applicant continues to argue that the Keller reference does not disclose that the leukoreduction filter is interconnected or preconnected between the red blood cell collection bag and the red blood cell storage bag, as claimed in Applicants claim 1.

As taught in the Keller reference on column 85, beginning on line 21, if leukoreduction of the collected red blood cells is deemed appropriate, the red blood cell/storage solution mix "can be" connected to a commercially available red cell/filter bag so that red blood cells are gravity transferred from the collection bag through a filter and into a new storage bag. That a leukoreduction filter "can be connected" does not imply that the filter is preconnected or integrated into the disposable set as claimed in the present invention.

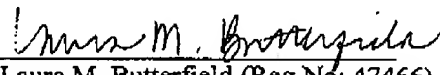
As defined in Webster's Third New International Dictionary, *connected* is defined as "joined or linked together" and *pre* is defined as, "earlier than: prior to: before." No where in Keller is this disclosed.

It is believed no fee is due with the filing of this response. However, if we are mistaken, please charge Deposit account number 032316.

If there are any questions, or if prosecution can be expedited in any manner by a telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

08-12-04
Date


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